



JONATHAN B. WEISBUCH, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR, MARICOPA COUNTY
Department of Public Health
1845 E. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85006

November 22, 2002

For more information, contact: Doug Hauth at (602) 506-4926 / Pager: (602) 205-3002

More Water Samples Come Back Positive for *Naegleria fowleri*

Phoenix – Officials from Maricopa County Public Health and Environmental Services' Departments and Arizona Departments of Environmental Quality and Health Services announced today additional water sample results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

As was reported earlier this week, officials were waiting for results on two water samples as well as a refrigerator filter. CDC confirmed today that one of the samples taken from Rose Valley Water's Tank 3 and the filter taken from the refrigerator of the grandparents of one of the boys who died in October were both positive for *Naegleria fowleri*. The remaining water sample from Rose Valley was negative for the amoeba in question.

Rose Valley's system was taken offline November 3rd so residents have been receiving only safe water since that time. Before the system will be able to provide water to residents, it must meet all County requirements including disinfection of all water system components and installations of a permanent mechanical chlorination system.

The refrigerator filter was taken for testing on October 21, before Rose Valley Water began chlorination. Rose Valley customers have already been advised to change their refrigerator filters after the switch to Peoria water. Those who did not are advised to do so now.

"Again, all the data show that a residual level of 0.5 parts per million of chlorine will kill this organism in a chlorinated system," said Dr. Jonathan Weisbuch, Director of Maricopa County Department of Public Health. "We have no reason to doubt this. I want to stress again, no new amoebic meningitis cases have been reported since the chlorination process began."

"We understand that this is frustrating information," said Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, "We are frustrated too and pledge to continue to work with federal officials to search for answers."

As county, state and federal officials continue to search for additional answers, unchlorinated water systems are asked to test often for total coliforms as indicator bacteria. If a test comes back positive, systems in Maricopa County are asked to contact Maricopa County Environmental Services.

A County hotline has been established at 602-506-6616 that offers emergency numbers to answer questions from residents. A recorded message also is available at 602-506-1040. For questions about health issues call 602-506-6900 during normal business hours.

Residents are reminded to not swim in warm, stagnant water, ponds or unchlorinated pools. Also, keep pools, Jacuzzis and spas properly cleaned and chlorinated.

Naegleria fowleri Sample Results from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sample #	Location	Result
1	City of Peoria Well Westbrook	Positive
2	Rose Valley Tank One	Negative
3	Rose Valley Tank Two	Negative
4	Rose Valley Tank Three	Positive
5	Rose Valley Well Two	Negative
6	Rose Valley Well Three	Negative
7	Refrigerator Filter	Positive